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Senate

(Legislative day of Monday, July 21, 2003)

The Senate met at 9 a.m., on the expiration of the recess, and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator God, source of all blessings, fountain of all wisdom, today, let our leaders play their part in doing Your will on Earth. Lord, You know the struggles that confront us, the things we wrestle with that cause us to be anxious and unsure. You know the things we run to, the things we run from, and the things that divide us. We thank You that though You know us completely, You still love us and direct our steps. Today, if our eyes have been closed to Your graces, open them. Give us the courage and the flexibility to make a better world. We pray this in Your strong name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 23, 2003.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will be in a period of morning business for an hour. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2555, the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill. Yesterday, we made progress, as the Senate was able to dispose of the Byrd amendment with a vote of 43 to 50 on waiving the budget. It is my understanding that this morning, at approximately 10 o'clock, Senator BOXER will be prepared to offer an amendment to the bill. Senator COCHRAN will be here, and it is my hope we can try to reach short time agreements on amendments that are offered as we go forward.

It is our desire to finish this bill today or this evening, if necessary. That would enable the Senate to consider another appropriations measure this week prior to resuming the Energy bill next week. Again, Members should notify the managers of their intention to offer amendments to the Homeland Security bill this morning. The chairman and ranking member would then be able to discuss an order of consideration of these amendments.

With the schedule announced, I will now yield myself time from my allotted time in morning business.

First, let me ask the Democratic leader, through the Chair, if he has any comments on the schedule.

I now yield myself my allotted time in morning business.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 1019

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Laci and Connor Peterson murders in California have brought before the American people a critical question that deserves a response: When a criminal attacks a woman who is pregnant, killing both her and her unborn child, has he killed one victim or two?

I believe the answer is two. Laci Peterson was not the only person killed but her unborn baby, Connor, was also murdered.

Unfortunately, there is a loophole in Federal law that does not permit prosecutors to charge suspects with killing both mother and child. Twenty-seven States have moved to close this loophole in their State laws. Indeed, California is one of those States. That is why State prosecutors have charged Scott Peterson with the deaths of his wife Laci and his son Connor.

I believe it is long past time for the Senate to close this loophole for Federal crimes. We have been working with our friends across the aisle since June 26 to reach an agreement to bring up this bill but so far we have been unsuccessful. But we are not going to give up.

Thus, I ask unanimous consent that, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of calendar item No. 89, S. 1019, the Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2003, under the following conditions: 2 hours of debate equally divided in the usual form; further, that no amendments be in order and that all points of order be

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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